

JACK THE  
& GIANT-  
KILLER &  
BEAUTY &  
THE BEAST





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from To Be.

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*THE*  
*BANBURY CROSS*  
*SERIES*

PREPARED FOR CHILDREN BY GRACE RHYS

JACK THE GIANT-KILLER  
AND  
BEAUTY & THE BEAST

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JACK THE GIANT-KILLER  
AND BEAUTY AND  
THE BEAST ILLUS-  
TRATED BY  
R. ANNING  
BELL



LONDON  
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## To Brian and Margaret.

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**I**N this little book you will find two of the most famous tales that have ever come to us from Fairyland. "Jack the Giant-Killer" is an old English tale, and "Beauty and the Beast" is an old French tale. But no matter for that: for both French Beauty and English Jack come from the same far country, which some people say is really no country at all; and that is Fairyland. Both tales are so old, indeed, that no one can say who first brought them and told them to children long ago. They were told to me when I was little, and to my mother when she was little, and to my grandmother when she was little; and they will go on being told still for many a long year.

It is our dear Hans Andersen, I think, who says they were brought to us at

first by the Fairy Godmother,—an old, old woman, with a wise, kind, wrinkled face, and a merry eye. She wears a scarlet cloak and a high peaked hat. Perhaps she saw the very things that are here told,—Jack and the Giants, and Beauty and the wonderful Beast who was really a Prince.

And now you may see them just as well in the pictures in this little book, which make our old tales look new again. With pictures or without, it is the old tales, after all, which are the best.

GRACE RHYS.

# Jack the Giant-Killer.

---

**I**N the reign of King Arthur, there lived in the county of Cornwall, near the Land's End of England, a wealthy farmer who had one only son called Jack. He was brisk and of a ready lively wit, so that whatever he could not perform by force and strength, he did by his quick wit and cleverness. Never was any person heard of that could worst him, and he very often even baffled wise men by his sharp and ready invention.

In those days the Mount of Cornwall was kept by a huge and monstrous giant of eighteen feet in height, and about three yards in girth, of a fierce and grim face, the terror of all the towns and villages near. He lived in a cave in the midst of the Mount, and would not suffer any one else to live near him. His food was other men's cattle, which often be-



came his prey, for whensoever he wanted food he would wade over to the mainland, where he would furnish himself with whatever came in his way. The good folk, at his approach, forsook their homes, while he seized on their cattle, making nothing of carrying half-a-dozen oxen on his back at a time; and as for their sheep and hogs, he would tie them round his waist like a bunch of bandeliers.

This course he had followed for many years, so that all Cornwall had become poor through his robberies.

One day Jack, happening to be present at the town hall when the magistrates were sitting in council about the giant, asked what reward would be given to the person who destroyed him. The giant's treasure, they said, was the reward. Quoth Jack, "Then let me undertake it."

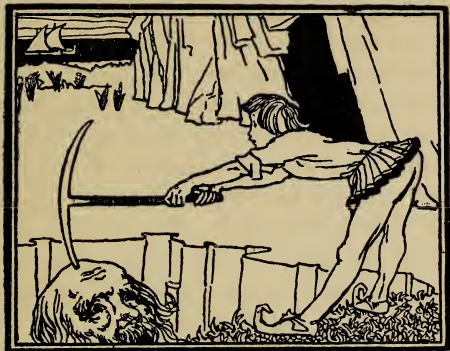
So he took a horn, shovel, and pick-axe, and went over to the Mount in the beginning of a dark winter's evening, when he fell to work, and before morning had dug a pit twenty-two feet deep, and nearly as broad, covering it over with long sticks and straw. Then strewing a little mould upon it, it appeared like plain ground. This done, Jack placed himself on the contrary side of the pit, farthest from the giant's



lodging, and, just at the break of day, he put the horn to his mouth, and blew, Tantivy, Tantivy. The unexpected noise aroused the gaint, who rushed from his cave, crying: "You bold villain, are you come here to disturb my rest? You shall pay dearly for this. Satisfaction I will have, and this it shall be, I will take you whole and broil you for breakfast," which he had no sooner uttered, than tumbling into the pit, he made the very foundations of the Mount to shake. "Oh, giant," quoth Jack, "where are you now? Oh faith, you are gotten now into Lob's Pound, where I will surely plague you for your wicked words: what do you think now of broiling me for your breakfast? Will no other diet serve you but poor Jack?" Thus having teased the giant for a while, he gave him a most weighty knock with his pickaxe on the very crown of his head, and killed him on the spot.

This done, Jack filled up the pit with earth, and went to search the cave, which he found contained much treasure.





When the magistrates heard of this, they said he should henceforth be called Jack the Giant-Killer, and gave him a sword and an embroidered belt, on which were written these words in letters of gold—

“Here’s the right valiant Cornish man,  
Who slew the giant Cormelian.”

The news of Jack’s victory soon spread over all the West of England, so that another giant, named Blunderbore, hearing of it, vowed to be revenged on the little hero, if ever it was his fortune to light on him. This giant was the lord

of an enchanted castle standing in the midst of a lonesome wood. Now Jack, about four months afterwards, walking near this wood in his journey to Wales, being weary, seated himself near a pleasant fountain and fell fast asleep. While he was enjoying his repose, the giant, coming for water, there found him, and knew him to be the far-famed Jack, by the lines written on the belt. Without ado, he took Jack on his shoulders and carried him towards his enchanted castle. Now, as they passed through a thicket, the rustling of the boughs awakened Jack, who was strangely surprised to find himself in the clutches of the giant. His terror was not yet begun, for on entering the castle, he saw the ground strewn with human bones, the giant telling him his own would ere long increase them. After this the giant locked poor Jack in an immense chamber, leaving him there while he went to fetch another giant living in the same wood to help him to put an end to Jack. While he was gone, dreadful shrieks and cries

affrighted Jack, especially a voice which said many times—

“Do what you can to get away,  
Or you’ll become the giant’s prey ;  
He’s gone to fetch his brother, who  
Will kill, likewise devour you too.”

This dreadful noise had almost distracted Jack, who, going to the window, beheld afar off the two giants coming towards the castle. “Now,” quoth Jack to himself, “my death or my escape is at hand.” Now, there were strong cords in a corner of the room in which Jack was, and two of these he took, and made a strong noose at the end ; and while the giants were unlocking the iron gate of the castle he threw the ropes over each of their heads. Then drawing the other ends across a beam, and pulling with all his might, he throttled them. Then, seeing they were black in the face, and sliding down the rope, he came to their heads, when they could not defend themselves, and drawing his sword, slew them both. Then, taking the giant’s keys, and unlocking the rooms, he found three fair



ladies tied by the hair of their heads, almost starved to death. "Sweet ladies," quoth Jack, "I have killed this monster and his brutish brother, and so set you free." This said, he gave them the keys, and so went on his journey to Wales. Having but little money, Jack found it well to make the best of his way by travelling as fast as he could, but losing his road, he was benighted, and could not get a place to rest in until, coming into a narrow valley, he found a large house, and by reason of his present needs took courage to knock at the gate. But what was his surprise when there came forth a monstrous giant with two heads; yet he did not appear so fiery as the others were, for he was a Welsh giant, and what he did was by private and secret malice under the false show of friendship. Jack, having told his state to the giant, was shown into a bedroom, where, in the dead of night, he heard his host in another room muttering these words—



“Though here you lodge with me this night,  
You shall not see the morning light :  
My club shall dash your brains outright !”

“Say’st thou so,” quoth Jack ; “that is like one of your Welsh tricks, yet I hope to be cunning enough for you.” Then, getting out of bed, he laid a billet of wood in the bed in his stead, and hid himself in a corner of the room. At the dead time of the night in came the Welsh giant, who struck several heavy blows on the bed with his club, thinking he had broken every bone in Jack’s skin. The next morning Jack, laughing in his sleeve, gave him hearty thanks for his night’s

lodging. "How have you rested?" quoth the giant; "did you not feel anything in the night?" "No," quoth Jack, "nothing but a rat, which gave me two or three slaps with her tail." With that, greatly wondering, the giant led Jack to breakfast, bringing him a bowl containing four gallons of hasty pudding. Being loath to let the giant think it too much for him, Jack put a large leather bag under his loose coat, in such a way that he could convey the pudding into it without its being seen. Then, telling the giant he would show him a trick, taking a knife, Jack ripped open the bag, and out came all the hasty pudding. Whereupon, saying, "Odds splutters, hur can do that trick hurself," the monster took the knife, and ripping open his body, fell down dead.

Now, it fell in these days that King Arthur's only son begged his father to give him a large sum of money, in order that he might go and seek his fortune in the country of Wales, where lived a beautiful lady possessed with seven evil

spirits. The king did his best to persuade his son from it, but in vain ; so at last granted the request, and the prince set out with two horses, one loaded with money, the other for himself to ride upon. Now, after several days' travel, he came to a market-town in Wales, where he beheld a vast crowd of people gathered together. The prince asked the reason of it, and was told that they had arrested a corpse for several large sums of money which the dead man owed when he died. The prince replied that it was a pity creditors should be so cruel, and said, " Go bury the dead, and let his creditors come to my lodging, and there their debts shall be paid." So they came, but in such great numbers that before night he had almost left himself moneyless.

Now Jack the Giant-Killer, coming that way, was so taken with the generosity of the prince, that he wished to be his servant. This being agreed upon, the next morning they set forward on their journey together, when, as they were





riding out of the town, an old woman called after the prince, saying, "He has owed me twopence these seven years; pray pay me as well as the rest." Putting his hand to his pocket, the prince gave the woman all he had left, so that after their day's refreshment, which cost what small spell Jack had by him, they were without a penny between them. When the sun began to grow low, the king's son said, "Jack, since we have no money, where can we lodge this night?" But Jack replied, "Master, we'll do well enough, for I have an uncle lives within two miles of this place; he is a huge and monstrous giant with three heads; he'll fight five hundred men in armour, and make them to fly before him." "Alas!" quoth the prince, "what shall

we do there? He'll certainly chop us up at a mouthful. Nay, we are scarce enough to fill one of his hollow teeth!" "It is no matter for that," quoth Jack; "I myself will go before and prepare the way for you; therefore tarry and wait till I return." Jack then rode away full speed, and coming to the gate of the castle, he knocked so loud that he made the hills around to echo. The giant roared out at this like thunder, "Who's there?" He was answered, "None but your poor Cousin Jack." Quoth he, "What news with my poor Cousin Jack?" He replied, "Dear Uncle, heavy news, God wot!" "Prithee," quoth the giant, "what heavy news can come to me? I am a giant with three heads, and besides thou knowest I can fight five hundred men in armour, and make them fly like chaff before the wind." "Oh, but," quoth Jack, "here's the king's son a-coming with a thousand men in armour to kill you and destroy all that you have!" "Oh, Cousin Jack," said the giant, "this is heavy news indeed! I



will immediately run and hide myself, and thou shalt lock, bolt, and bar me in, and keep the keys until the prince is gone." Having secured the giant, Jack fetched his master, when they made themselves heartily merry whilst the poor giant lay trembling in a vault under the ground.

Early in the morning Jack furnished his master with a fresh supply of gold and silver, and then sent him three miles forward on his journey, at which time the prince was pretty well out of the smell of the giant. Jack then returned, and let the giant out of the vault, who asked what he should give him for keeping the castle safe. "Why," quoth Jack,



“I desire nothing but the old coat and cap, together with the old rusty sword and slippers which are at your bed’s head.” Quoth the giant, “Thou shalt have them; and pray keep them for my sake, for they are things of excellent use. The coat will keep you invisible, the cap will furnish you with knowledge, the sword cuts asunder whatever you strike, and the shoes are of extraordinary swiftness. These may be useful to you, therefore take them with all my heart.” Taking them, Jack thanked his uncle, and then having overtaken his master, they quickly arrived at the house of the lady the prince sought, who, finding the prince to be a suitor, prepared a splendid banquet for him. After the feasting was done, she wiped his mouth with a handkerchief, saying, “You must show me that handkerchief to-morrow morning, or else you will lose your head.” With that she put it in her bosom. The prince went to bed in great sorrow, but Jack’s cap of knowledge taught him how it was to be got. In the middle of the night



she called upon her familiar spirit to carry her to Lucifer. But Jack put on his coat of darkness and his shoes of swiftness, and was there as soon as her. When she entered the place of the evil one, she gave the handkerchief to old Lucifer, who laid it upon a shelf, whence Jack took it and brought it to his master, who showed it to the lady the next day, and so saved his life. On that day, she saluted the prince, telling him he must show her the lips to-morrow morning that she kissed last night, or lose his head. "Ah," he replied, "if you kiss none but mine, I will." "That is neither here nor there," said she; "if you do not, death's your portion!" At midnight she went as before, and was angry with old Lucifer for letting the handkerchief go. "But now," quoth she, "I will be too hard for the king's son, for I will kiss thee, and he is to show me thy lips." Which she did, and Jack, who was standing by, cut off the devil's head and brought it under his invisible coat to his master, who the next morning





pulled it out by the horns before the lady. The enchantment thus broken, the evil spirit left her, and she appeared in all her beauty. They were married the next morning, and soon after went to the court of King Arthur, where Jack, for his many great deeds, was made one of the Knights of the Round Table.

Having been successful in all he did, Jack resolved not to remain idle, but to do what he could for the honour of his king and country, and begged King Arthur to fit him out with a horse and money to help him to travel in search of strange and new adventures. "For," said he, "there are many giants yet living in the farthest part of Wales, to the great damage of your majesty's liege subjects; wherefore, may it please you to encourage me, I do not doubt but in a short time to cut them off root and branch, and so rid all the realm of those giants and monsters of nature." When the king had heard this noble request, he furnished Jack with all he had need of, and Jack started on his pursuit, taking

with him the cap of knowledge, sword of sharpness, shoes of swiftness, and invisible coat, the better to succeed in the dangerous adventures which now lay before him.

Jack travelled over vast hills and wonderful mountains, and on the third day came to a large wood, which he had no sooner entered than he heard dreadful shrieks and cries. Casting his eyes round, he beheld with terror a huge giant dragging along a fair lady and a knight by the hair of their heads, with as much ease as if they had been a pair of gloves. At this sight Jack shed tears of pity, and then, getting off from his horse, he put on his invisible coat, and taking with him his sword of sharpness, at length with a swinging stroke cut off both the giant's legs below the knee, so that his fall made the trees to tremble. At this the courteous knight and his fair lady, after returning Jack their hearty thanks, invited him home, there to refresh his strength after the battle, and receive some ample reward for his good



services. But Jack vowed he would not rest until he had found out the giant's den. The knight, hearing this, was very sorrowful, and replied, "Noble stranger, it is too much to run a second risk; this monster lived in a den under yonder mountain, with a brother more fierce and fiery than himself. Therefore, if you should go thither, and perish in the attempt, it would be a heart-breaking to me and my lady. Let me persuade you to go with us, and desist from any further pursuit." "Nay," quoth Jack, "were there twenty, not one should escape my fury. But when I have finished my task, I will come and pay my respects to you."



Jack had not ridden more than a mile and a half, when the cave mentioned by the knight appeared to view, near the entrance of which he beheld the giant sitting upon a block of timber, with a knotted iron club by his side, waiting, as he supposed, for his brother's return with his prey. His goggle eyes were like flames of fire, his face grim and ugly, and his cheeks like a couple of large flitches of bacon, while the bristles of his beard resembled rods of iron wire, and the locks that hung down upon his brawny shoulders were like curled snakes or hissing adders. Jack alighted from his horse, and, putting on the coat

of darkness, approached near the giant, and said softly, "Oh! are you there? It will not be long ere I shall take you fast by the beard." The giant all this while could not see him, on account of his invisible coat, so that Jack, coming up close to the monster, struck a blow with his sword at his head, but, missing his aim, he cut off the nose instead. At this, the giant roared like claps of thunder, and began to lay about him with his iron club like one stark mad. But Jack, running behind, drove his sword up to the hilt in the giant's back, which caused him to fall down dead. This done, Jack cut off the giant's head, and sent it, with his brother's head also, to King Arthur, by a waggoner he hired for that purpose.

Jack now resolved to enter the giants' cave in search of his treasure, and, passing along through a great many windings and turnings, he came at length to a large room paved with freestone, at the upper end of which was a boiling caldron, and on the right hand a large table, at which



the giants used to dine. Then he came to a window, barred with iron, through which he looked and beheld a vast crowd of unhappy captives, who, seeing him, cried out, "Alas! young man, art thou come to be one amongst us in this miserable den?" "Ay," quoth Jack, "but pray tell me why it is you are so imprisoned?" "We are kept here," said one, "till such time as the giants have a wish to feast, and then the fattest among us is killed! And many are the times they have dined upon murdered men!" "Say you so," quoth Jack, and straightway unlocked the gate and let them free, who all rejoiced like condemned men at

sight of a reprieve. Then searching the giants' coffers, he shared the gold and silver equally amongst them.

It was about sunrise the next day when Jack, after seeing the captives on their way to their homes, mounted his horse to go on his journey, and, by the help of his directions, reached the knight's house about noon. He was received here with all signs of joy by the knight and his lady, who in respect to Jack prepared a feast which lasted many days, all the gentry in the neighbourhood being of the company. The worthy knight was likewise pleased to present him with a beautiful ring, on which was engraved a picture of the giant dragging the distressed knight and his lady, with this motto—

“ We are in sad distress you see,  
Under a giant's fierce command,  
But gain our lives and liberty  
By valiant Jack's victorious hand.”

But in the midst of all this mirth a messenger brought the dismal tidings that one Thunderdell, a giant with two



heads, having heard of the death of his two kinsmen, came from the northern dales to be revenged on Jack, and was within a mile of the knight's seat, the country people flying before him like chaff. But Jack was no whit daunted, and said, "Let him come! I have a tool to pick his teeth; and you, ladies and gentlemen, walk but forth into the garden, and you shall witness this giant Thunderdell's death and destruction."

The house of this knight was in the midst of a small island with a moat thirty feet deep and twenty feet wide around it,



over which lay a drawbridge. Wherefore Jack employed men to cut through this bridge on both sides, nearly to the middle ; and then, dressing himself in his invisible coat, he marched against the giant with his sword of sharpness. Although the giant could not see Jack he smelt his approach, and cried out in these words—

“ Fee, fi, fo, fum !

I smell the blood of an English man !

Be he alive or be he dead,

I'll grind his bones to make me bread ! ”

“ Say'st thou so,” said Jack ; “ then thou art a monstrous miller indeed.” At which the giant cried out again, “ Art thou that villain who killed my kinsmen ? Then I will tear thee with my teeth, suck thy blood, and grind thy bones to powder.” “ You will catch me first,” quoth Jack, and throwing off his invisible coat, so that the giant might see him, and putting on his shoes of swiftness, he ran from the giant, who followed like a walking castle, so that the very earth seemed to shake at every step. Jack led



him a long dance, in order that the knights and ladies might see; and at last, to end the matter, ran lightly over the drawbridge, the giant, in full speed, pursuing him with his club. Then, coming to the middle of the bridge, the giant's great weight broke it down, and he tumbled headlong into the water, where he rolled and wallowed like a whale. Jack, standing by the moat, laughed at him all the while; but though the giant foamed to hear him scoff, and plunged from place to place in the moat, yet he could not get out to be revenged. Jack at length got a cart-rope and cast it over the two heads of the giant, and drew him ashore by a team of horses, and then cut off both his

heads with his sword of sharpness, and sent them to King Arthur.

After some time spent in mirth and pastime, Jack, taking leave of the knights and ladies, set out for new adventures. Through many woods he passed, and came at length to the foot of a high mountain. Here, late at night, he found a lonesome house, and knocked at the door, which was opened by an ancient man with a head as white as snow. "Father," said Jack, "have you any place where a traveller may rest that has lost his way?" "Yes," said the old man; "you are right welcome to my poor cottage." Whereupon Jack entered, and down they sat together, and the old man began to speak as follows:—"Son, I know you are the great conqueror of giants, and behold, my son, on the top of this mountain is an enchanted castle, kept by a giant named Galligantus, who, by the help of an old conjuror, betrays knights and ladies into his castle, where, by magic art, they are transformed into many

shapes and forms ; but, above all, I weep for the fate of a duke's daughter, whom they fetched from her father's garden, carrying her through the air in a burning chariot drawn by fiery dragons, when they shut her up within the castle, and transformed her into the shape of a white hind. And though many knights have tried to break the enchantment, and set her free, yet no one could do it, on account of two dreadful griffins which are placed at the castle gate, and which destroy every one who comes near. But you, my son, having an invisible coat, may pass by them unseen, where, on the gates of the castle, you will find written in large letters by what means the enchantment may be broken." The old man having ended, Jack gave him his hand, and promised that in the morning he would venture his life to free the lady.

In the morning Jack arose and put on his invisible coat and magic cap and shoes, and prepared himself for the task. Now, when he had reached the top of



the mountain, he soon saw the two fiery griffins, but passed them without fear, because of his invisible coat. When he had got beyond them, he found upon the gates of the castle a golden trumpet hung by a silver chain, under which these lines were written—

“Whoever shall this trumpet blow,  
Shall soon the giant overthrow,  
And break the black enchantment straight;  
So all shall be in happy state.”

Jack had no sooner read this but he blew the trumpet, at which the castle trembled to its vast foundations, and the giant and conjuror were in horrid fear, biting their thumbs and tearing their hair, knowing their wicked reign was at an end. Then the giant, stooping to take up his club, Jack at one blow cut off his head; whereupon the conjuror, mounting up into the air, was carried away in a whirlwind. Thus was the enchantment broken, and all the lords and ladies who had so long been transformed into birds and beasts returned to their proper shapes, and the castle vanished away in



a cloud of smoke. This being done, the head of Galligantus was likewise, in the usual manner, brought to the Court of King Arthur, where the very next day, Jack followed, with the knights and ladies who had been so happily set free. Whereupon, as a reward for his good services, the king bade the duke give his daughter in marriage to honest Jack. So married they were, and the whole kingdom was filled with joy at the wedding. Furthermore, the king bestowed on Jack a noble dwelling, with very beautiful lands thereto belonging, where he and his lady lived in great joy and happiness all the rest of their days.



# The History of Beauty and the Beast







ONCE upon a time there was a very rich merchant who had six children—three boys and three girls. As he was a kind father, he spared no pains in bringing them up, and had them taught everything that was good. His daughters were very pretty, but the youngest was prettiest of all ; while she was little she was always called Beauty, and when she grew up she still kept the name ; so that her sisters were full of jealousy. But Beauty was not only lovelier than her sisters, she was also more virtuous than they ; for they were proud of their riches, and, aping the doings of the great, they would only



know people of better condition than themselves. Every day they went to balls and theatres, and laughed at Beauty, who spent a great part of her time in study. As it was well known that these sisters were very rich, many great merchants wished to marry them; but the two eldest always said that they would never marry any one but a duke, or at least an earl. Beauty, however, thanked those who wished to marry her, saying that she was too young to leave her father, whose companion she hoped to be for some years longer.

All at once the merchant lost his whole fortune, and nothing was left him but a little house in the country, a great way from town. Weeping, he told his children that they must go and live there and work for their living. The two eldest daughters answered that they would not leave town, and that they had several lovers who would be glad to marry them, though they had no fortune; but in this they were mistaken, for their lovers slighted and forsook them in their



poverty. As they were not beloved, on account of their pride, everybody said—

“They do not deserve to be pitied ; we are glad to see their pride humbled ; let them go and give themselves quality airs in milking the cows and minding their dairy. But,” added they, “we are very sorry for Beauty, she was such a good girl, she spoke so softly to poor folk, and was gentle and kind.” Nay, several gentlemen would have married her, although they knew she had not a penny ; but she told them she could not think of leaving her poor father in his trouble, but was determined to go with



him into the country, to comfort him and give what help she could.

Poor Beauty at first was sadly grieved at the loss of her fortune. "But," said she to herself, "were I to cry ever so much it would make things no better, so I must try to make myself happy without a fortune."

When they came to their cottage the merchant and his sons spent their time in tilling the ground. Beauty rose at four in the morning and made haste to have the house clean and dinner ready for them all. At first she found it very difficult, for she had not been used to work hard : but in less than two months



she grew stronger and healthier than ever. After she had done her work, she read, played on the harpsichord, or else sang whilst she spun. Her two sisters, on the contrary, were wretched; they got up at ten o'clock, and did nothing but saunter about the whole day, and complain of the loss of their fine clothes and acquaintance.

“Do but see our youngest sister,” said one to the other, “what a poor, stupid, mean-spirited creature she is, to be contented with such a miserable lot.” The good merchant, however, thought quite





differently : he knew very well that Beauty was as much fairer than her sisters as she was wiser, and admired her humility, her industry, and above all, her patience ; for her sisters not only left her all the work of the house to do, but insulted her every minute.

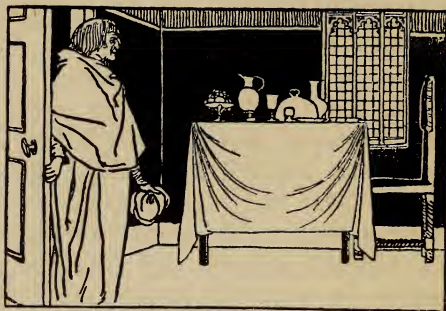
For about a year they lived together in this loneliness, when the merchant received a letter with an account of how a ship, on board of which he had some goods, was safely arrived. This news had like to have turned the heads of the two eldest daughters, who thought that

here was a chance of their leaving the country where they were so wretched ; and, when they saw their father ready to set out, they begged of him to buy them new gowns, caps, rings, and all manner of trifles ; but Beauty asked for nothing, for she thought to herself, that all the money her father was going to receive would scarce be enough to buy every thing that her sisters wanted. “What will you have, Beauty ?” said her father. “Since you are so good as to think of me,” answered she, “pray bring me a rose, for we have none in our garden.” The good man went on his journey ; but when he reached town, they went to law with him about his goods, and after a great deal of trouble and pains to no purpose, he came back as poor as before.

He was within thirty miles of his own house, thinking on the pleasure he should have in seeing his children again, when, going through a great forest, he lost his way. It was snowing hard, and besides, the wind was so high, it blew him twice off his horse ; and night coming on, he began

to fear being either starved to death with cold and hunger, or else eaten by the wolves whom he heard howling all around him. Suddenly, looking down a long avenue of trees, he saw a bright light some way off, and going a little farther, found that it came from a palace which was lit up from top to bottom. The merchant thanked God for the help he had sent, and made haste to reach the Castle, but was greatly surprised not to meet anyone in the courtyards.

His horse followed him, and seeing a large stable open, went in, and finding both hay and oats, the poor beast, who was almost famished, fell to eating very heartily. The merchant tied him up to the manger, and walked towards the house, where he saw no one; but entering into a large hall, he found a good fire, and a table plentifully set out, with but one cover laid. As he was wet quite through with the rain and snow, he drew near the fire to dry himself. "I hope," said he, "the master of the house, or his servants, will excuse the



liberty I take ; I suppose it will not be long before some of them appear.”

He waited a considerable time, till it struck eleven, and still nobody came ; at last he was so hungry that he could stay no longer, but took a chicken and ate it in two mouthfuls, trembling all the while. After this he drank a few glasses of wine, and, growing more courageous, he went out of the hall, and crossed through several grand apartments with magnificent furniture, till he came into a chamber which had an exceeding good bed in it, and, as he was very much fatigued, and it was past midnight, he concluded it was best to shut the door and go to bed.

It was ten the next morning before the merchant waked, and as he was going to rise, he was astonished to see a good suit of clothes in the room of his own, which were quite spoiled. "Certainly," said he, "this palace belongs to some kind fairy, who has seen and pitied my distresses." He looked through a window, but, instead of snow, saw the most delightful arbours, interwoven with the most beautiful flowers that ever were beheld. He then returned to the great hall, where he had supped the night before, and found some chocolate ready made on a little table. "Thank you, good Madam Fairy," said he aloud, "for being so kind as to think of my breakfast."

The good man drank his chocolate, and then went to look for his horse; but passing through an arbour of roses, he remembered Beauty's request, and gathered a branch on which were several; immediately he heard a great noise and saw such a frightful beast coming towards him that he was ready to faint







away. "Ungrateful man," said the Beast to him in a terrible voice, "I have saved your life by receiving you into my castle, and in return you steal my roses which I love better than anything in the world ; but you shall die for it, I give you but a quarter of an hour to prepare yourself and to say your prayers." The merchant fell on his knees, and lifted up both his hands : "My Lord," said he, "I beseech you to forgive me, indeed I had no intention to offend in gathering a rose for one of my daughters, who had asked me to bring her one." "My name is not My Lord," replied the monster, "but Beast. I don't like compliments, not I ; I like people to speak as they think ; and so do not expect to move me by any of your flatteries. However, you say you have got daughters ; I will forgive you on condition that one of them comes willingly and suffers for you. Let me have no words, but go about your business, and swear that if your daughters refuse to die in your stead, you will



return within three months." The merchant had no mind to sacrifice his daughters to the ugly monster, but he thought that at least he might have the pleasure of seeing them once more. So he promised to return, and the Beast told him he might set out when he pleased ; " but," added he, " you shall not depart empty handed. Go back to the room where you lay, and you will see a great empty chest ; fill it with whatever you like best, and I will send it to your home," and with that the Beast went away.

" Well," said the good man to himself, " if I must die I shall have the comfort, at least, of leaving something to my poor children."

He returned to the bed chamber, and finding a quantity of broad pieces of gold, he filled the great chest the Beast had told him of, locked it, and then took his horse out of the stable, leaving the palace with as much grief as he had entered it with joy.

The horse, of his own accord, took one



of the roads of the forest, and in a few hours the good merchant was at home. His children came around him, but instead of receiving their caresses with pleasure, he stood weeping, and looked at them. Then holding out the rose-branch he carried to Beauty, he said to her, "Take these roses, Beauty ; little do you think how dear they will cost your poor father ;" and so he told them all the sad adventure he had fallen in with. Immediately the two eldest set up a most dolorous outcry, and spoke unkindly to Beauty, who, however, did not cry at all. "See what

comes of the little wretch's pride," said they, "she would not ask for fine clothes as we did ; no indeed, miss wished to be uncommon ; and now that she is going to be the death of our poor father, she will not shed a tear." "Why should I?" answered Beauty, "it would be very needless, for my father shall not suffer on my account. Since the monster will accept one of his daughters, I will go and give myself up to him, and happy am I to think that my death will save my father's life and be a proof of my love for him." "No, sister," said her three brothers, "that shall not be ; we will go and find the monster, and either kill him or die ourselves." "Do not imagine any such thing, my sons," said the merchant, "Beast's power is so great that I have no hopes of your getting the better of him. I am touched by Beauty's kindness of heart, but I cannot do as she would have me ; I am old and have but little longer to live ; so at most I lose a few years, which I regret for your sakes, my dear children." "Indeed, father, you shall not go to



the palace without me," said Beauty ;  
"you cannot hinder me from following  
you." In spite of all they could say,  
Beauty still insisted on setting out for  
the palace, and her sisters were not sorry,  
for her goodness had filled them with  
jealousy.

The merchant, however, was so grieved  
at the thought of losing his daughter, that  
he had quite forgot the chest full of gold.  
But, at night, as soon as he had shut his  
chamber door, what was his astonishment  
to find it by his bedside ; he determined,  
however, not to tell his children that he  
had grown rich, as his two elder

daughters would have wanted to return to town, and he was resolved not to leave the country ; but he trusted Beauty with the secret, who then told him that two gentlemen came in his absence, and courted her sisters ; she begged her father to consent to their marriage, and give them fortunes ; for she was so good that she loved them, and forgave them heartily for all their ill usage. These wicked creatures rubbed their eyes with an onion to force some tears when they parted with their sister, but her brothers were really concerned. Beauty was the only one who did not shed tears at parting, for she would not increase their grief.

The horse took the direct road to the palace, and towards evening, they saw it all lit up as at first : the horse went of himself into the stable, and the good man and his daughter came into the great hall, where they found a table magnificently spread, with two covers laid. The merchant had no heart to eat, but Beauty, trying to appear cheerful, sat



down to table and helped him. Afterwards, thought she to herself, "Beast surely has a mind to fatten me before he eats me, since he provides such a good supper." When they had supped, they heard a great noise, and the merchant, in tears, bid his poor child farewell, for he thought Beast was coming. Beauty was sadly terrified at his horrid form, but she took courage as well as she could, and the monster having asked her if she came willingly, "Y-e-s," said she, trembling. "You are very good, and I am grateful to you. Honest man, go your ways tomorrow morning, but never think of returning here again. Farewell, Beauty." "Farewell, Beast," answered she, sighing,

and immediately the monster turned to go away. "O daughter," said the merchant, embracing Beauty, "I am almost frightened to death ; believe me, you had better go back and let me stay here." "No, father," said Beauty, firmly, "do you go and leave me to the care and protection of Providence." They went to bed and thought they should not close their eyes all night ; but scarce had they laid down than they fell fast asleep ; and Beauty dreamed a fair lady came and said to her, "I am pleased with your brave heart, Beauty ; this good action of yours in giving up your own life to save your father's shall not go unrewarded." Beauty waked and told her father her dream, and though it helped to comfort him a little, yet he could not help crying bitterly when he took leave of his dear child, as he feared he might never see her again.

As soon as he was gone, Beauty sat down in the great hall and fell a crying likewise ; but as she was mistress of a great deal of spirit, she recom-

mended herself to God, and resolved not to be uneasy the little time she had to live ; for she firmly believed Beast would eat her up that night. She made up her mind then to walk about and see this great castle, which she could not help admiring. It was a delightful, pleasant place, and she was extremely surprised to find a door, over which was written, “Beauty’s Room.” She quickly opened the door, and was dazzled by the splendour that she saw within. There, among other things, was a great library, a harpsichord, and many books of music. “Ah,” thought Beauty, “had they thought of eating me at once, they would surely not have made such provision for my amusement.” So, taking heart, she opened the library and there saw written in gold letters, “Wish or command, you are queen and mistress here.” “Alas,” said she, sighing, “I want nothing but to see my poor father again, and to know what he is now doing.” Scarce had she thought it, when, what was her surprise, on looking at a great mirror near by, to see





there her own home where her father was just arriving with a most sad face ; her sisters came out to meet him, and in spite of the grimaces which they made so as to seem in grief, the joy they felt at their sister's loss was plain to see. One moment after, all had vanished, and Beauty could not but think it had been a proof of the Beast's kindness, and that she had nothing to fear from him.

Towards evening she returned to the great hall, where she found dinner ready prepared. The most delightful music played during the whole of dinner. When Beauty had finished, the table was cleared, and the choicest wines and

most delicious fruits were then laid. At the same hour as on the day before, she heard the noise of Beast's coming and he entered, and advancing towards Beauty, who dared not look up, he said : " Will you permit me to sit with you ? " " That is as you please," replied she. " Not so," said Beast, " for you are mistress here ; and if my company is disagreeable I will begone ; but tell me, Beauty, do you think me very ugly ? " " I do indeed," said she, " to speak the truth ; but I think you are very good." " You are right," said the monster ; " but that is not all, for I am stupid as well as ugly ; I know well that I am nothing but a beast." " No one is really stupid who thinks that he has little wit," answered Beauty, " no fool ever yet thought that." " Ah, well," said the Beast, " try to make yourself happy here, Beauty ; I should be sorry if you were unhappy." " You are very kind, Beast," said she ; " indeed, when I think of your good heart, you no longer seem to me so ugly." " Dear me, yes," said he, " my heart is

good, but, for all that, I am a monster.” “There are many who are really more of monsters than you,” answered Beauty, “and I like you better with that face, than many who under an appearance of beauty hide a cruel heart.” “Ah,” said Beast, “if I were not so stupid, I would know how to thank you.” So Beauty talked to him, gaining courage the while ; but she had like to have fainted with fright, when, taking hold of her hand, Beast said in a gentle voice : “Beauty, will you marry me ?” She hastily withdrew her hand, but made no reply ; at which the Beast sighed deeply and withdrew. On his next visit he appeared sorrowful and dejected, but said nothing. Some weeks after he repeated the question, when Beauty replied : “No, Beast, I cannot marry you, but I will do all in my power to make you happy.” “This you cannot do,” replied he, “for unless you marry me I shall die.” “Oh, say not so,” said Beauty, “for it is impossible that I can ever marry you.” The Beast then went away, more unhappy than ever.

Then Beauty was seized with compassion, "Alas," sighed she, "'tis a thousand pities anything so good-natured should be so ugly."

Amidst all this, Beauty did not forget her father. One day she felt a strong desire to know how he was, and what he was doing ; at that instant she cast her eyes on a mirror and saw her father had pined himself ill and lay in his bed, whilst her sisters were trying on some fine dresses in another room. At this sad sight poor Beauty wept bitterly.

When Beast came as usual he saw her grief, and asked the cause. She told him what she had seen, and how much she wished to go and nurse her father. He asked her if she would promise to return at the end of a week if she went. Beauty gave him her promise. "Well then," said Beast, "you will find yourself there to-morrow ; but ah ! do not forget to return ; you will only have to place your ring on a table when you go to bed if you wish to come back. Farewell, Beauty." Beast sighed as he spoke, and

Beauty went to bed very sad because she must give him pain.

When she waked in the morning she found herself in her father's cottage, and on ringing a little bell she found by her bed, the servant entered and cried out on seeing her. The good man hastened to her on hearing the noise, and had almost died of joy when he saw his dear daughter, and for more than a quarter of an hour they forgot all else. Then Beauty remembered that she had no gown to put on, but the servant told her that she had just found in the next room a great chest full of golden gowns sewn with diamonds. Beauty thanked the good Beast in her heart, and choosing the simplest dress, she told the maid to lock away the others as she would give them to her sisters. But hardly had she said so, when the chest disappeared. Her father told her that Beast wished her to keep them for herself; when immediately the dresses and the chest came back to the same place.

Then Beauty put on her gown, and when she had done so, her sisters, who

had been sent for, came with their husbands.

They were both very unhappy. The eldest had married a young gentleman as handsome as the day; but he was so much in love with his own face, that he thought of nothing else from morning till night, and never noticed the beauty of his wife. The second had married a man who had a very pretty wit, but he only used it to annoy everyone, beginning with his wife.

The two sisters were very much annoyed at Beauty's return, for they had hoped that the Beast would have destroyed her. They were greatly annoyed to see her dressed like a queen and as lovely as a flower. In vain did Beauty caress them, nothing could check their jealousy, which only increased when Beauty told them of her happiness.

So these two went down to the garden, where they could talk as they pleased. The eldest said to the other, "Why should this minx be better off than we are? Let us try to keep her here be-

yond the time ; the monster will then be so enraged with her for breaking her promise, that he will destroy her at once when she returns." "That is well thought of," replied the sister. "We will keep her."

In order to succeed, they treated Beauty with the greatest affection, so that she almost wept for joy. When the week had past the two sisters tore their hair and made as though they would die of grief if Beauty were to go, so that she easily promised to remain another week.

Nevertheless, Beauty fretted at the grief she must be causing to her poor Beast, whom she loved with all her heart and longed to see again. The tenth night that she spent at her father's house she dreamed that she was in the palace garden, and that she saw the Beast lying on the grass and like to die, and that he reproached her for her ingratitude. Beauty awoke weeping, "Ah!" said she, "Am I not ungrateful to grieve a Beast who is so kind to me? What fault is it of his that he is ugly







and stupid? He is good, and that is better than all the rest. Why did I not marry him? I should at any rate be happier than my sisters, who are no better off for the beauty and wit of their husbands. No, I will not make Beast unhappy; all my life long I should have to reproach myself for such ingratitude."

So Beauty got up, and placing her ring on the table, fell again into a sound sleep, from which she woke to find herself in the palace. Everything was just as she had left it; but the sweet sounds of music which used to greet her were now hushed, and there was an air of apparent gloom hanging over everything. She herself felt very sad, but she knew not why.

At the usual time she expected a visit from Beast, but no Beast appeared. Beauty, wondering what all this could mean, now reproached herself for her ingratitude in not having returned as she promised. She feared the poor Beast had died of grief, and she resolved to seek him in every part of the palace,



and ran through every apartment, but no Beast could be seen. Then remembering her dream, with a sorrowful heart she hastened into the garden, going towards the little canal, beside which she had seen him in her sleep.

At that moment she arrived at a plot of grass where the poor Beast lay as if dead. Beauty ran towards him, and knelt by his side, and finding that he still lived, she flung some water from the canal over his head.

He opened his eyes and said: "Beauty, you forgot your promise, and therefore I must die."



“No, dear Beast,” exclaimed Beauty, weeping, “no, you shall not die, you will live to be my husband ; I thought, indeed, that I had only friendship for you, but now I know that I love you with my whole heart.”

No sooner had these words passed her lips than the beast disappeared, and she saw at her feet a handsome prince, who thanked her for having broken his enchantment. At the same moment the whole castle was lit up, the sweetest music was heard, and bells rang in all their cheering melody. Beauty, however, could think of nothing but her dear Beast, and asked the prince where she

could find him. "You see him at your feet," answered he; and then he told her that a wicked magician had condemned him to wear the form of a beast until a beautiful maiden should consent to marry him. "But," added he, "you were the only one in the world good enough to be touched by my kind heart and unhappy state, so that this palace and all that belongs to me is but a poor return for your sweet goodness." So saying, he led Beauty to the great hall of the palace, which was now thronged, for at the same instant that the beast was changed the whole palace became full of courtiers, all of whom had been rendered invisible when the prince was enchanted. But what was Beauty's joy to find there her father and sisters, transported there by the kind fairy who had appeared to her in her sleep. "Beauty," said she, "here is the reward of your wise choice; you have chosen goodness, and you shall have beauty and wisdom as well." Then turning to the frowning sisters, she punished them by turning them into two



statues, to stand by the door of their sister's palace, until their hard hearts should change and become soft. So the prince married Beauty, and they lived happily together for many, many years.



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